

Remarks on the Nomination of Mary E. Peters To Be Secretary of Transportation *September 5, 2006*

The President. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. I'm pleased to announce that I intend to nominate Mary Peters to be the next Secretary of Transportation.

Our Nation's transportation infrastructure is vital to our prosperity and competitiveness; it's critical to the everyday lives of our citizens. The Secretary of Transportation is responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system. In addition, the Secretary of Transportation plays an important role in our Nation's coordinated efforts to guard against terrorist threats to our aircraft, our seaports, and our infrastructure. It is the job that requires vision and strong leadership.

Mary Peters is the right person for this job. She brings a lifetime of experience on transportation issues, from both the private and public sectors. She now serves as a senior executive for transportation policy at a major engineering firm. Before that, Mary served in my administration as the head of the Federal Highway Administration. As Administrator, Mary led efforts to improve safety and security, reduce traffic congestion, and modernize America's roads and bridges.

And before coming to Washington, Mary served in the Arizona Department of Transportation for more than 15 years, rising through the ranks to become the director in 1998. Mary has a reputation for character and common sense. She's an innovative thinker. She knows how to set priorities and to solve problems. And as a member of my Cabinet, Mary will work closely with State and local leaders to ensure that America has a state-of-the-art transportation system that meets the needs of our growing economy.

When confirmed by the Senate, Mary will succeed one of our Nation's finest Sec-

retaries of Transportation in Norm Mineta. When I came to Washington, I asked Norm to continue his service by joining my Cabinet. And he shows that when we put politics aside, people from different political parties can work together to achieve results for the American people.

He was the Secretary of Transportation on September the 11th, 2001, and he led the unprecedented effort to bring tens of thousands of passengers aboard commercial aircraft to safe landings. And since then, he's worked to strengthen the security at America's airports and seaports. He's played a critical role in keeping America safe from terrorist attacks. Norm also worked hard to modernize the aviation market. And after Hurricane Katrina, Norm and his team swung into action to repair and reopen major highways and seaports and airports and pipelines along America's gulf coast.

Norm Mineta has served America with integrity and dedication and distinction. He leaves office as the longest serving Secretary of Transportation in our Nation's history. I appreciate Norm's lifetime of service to our country. I wish him and Deni and all his family all the best. I also want to thank Maria Cino for her outstanding leadership of the Department since Norm stepped down in July.

Mary Peters knows the legacy she has to live up to at the Department of Transportation. She will take this new post during a time of historic challenges for our economy and our transportation system. I want to thank Mary for her willingness to serve yet again. She's going to make an outstanding Secretary of Transportation, and I call upon the United States Senate to confirm her promptly. Congratulations.

[At this point, Secretary-designate Peters made brief remarks.]

The President. Good job, thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In

his remarks, he referred to Danealia “Deni” Mineta, wife of former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; and Maria Cino, Acting Secretary of Transportation. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Peters.

Statement on the Resignation of Mark B. McClellan as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services *September 5, 2006*

Mark McClellan has served my administration in a number of pivotal positions and in doing so has bettered the lives of millions of Americans. He played an instrumental role in transforming the Nation’s health care system, and his efforts will continue to make a difference for generations.

Mark first served as a member of my Council of Economic Advisers, focusing on health care and related economic issues. He then became head of the Food and Drug Administration, where he provided steady leadership to empower consumers and to ensure rapid access to products that are safe and effective. For the last 2½ years, Mark has run the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services. As CMS Administrator, Mark was critical in the successful implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the most important health care reform in 40 years. He has also worked to ensure that price and quality information are available to consumers and led reforms that brought principles of private sector competition to Government programs, thereby moving the country toward a system in which Americans will receive better care at lower overall prices.

Mark has been a trusted adviser, and he leaves behind a strong record of accomplishment. I wish all the best to Mark, his wife, Stephanie, and their children.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks *September 5, 2006*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the

emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.